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Sickle Cell Disease in Metro Atlanta

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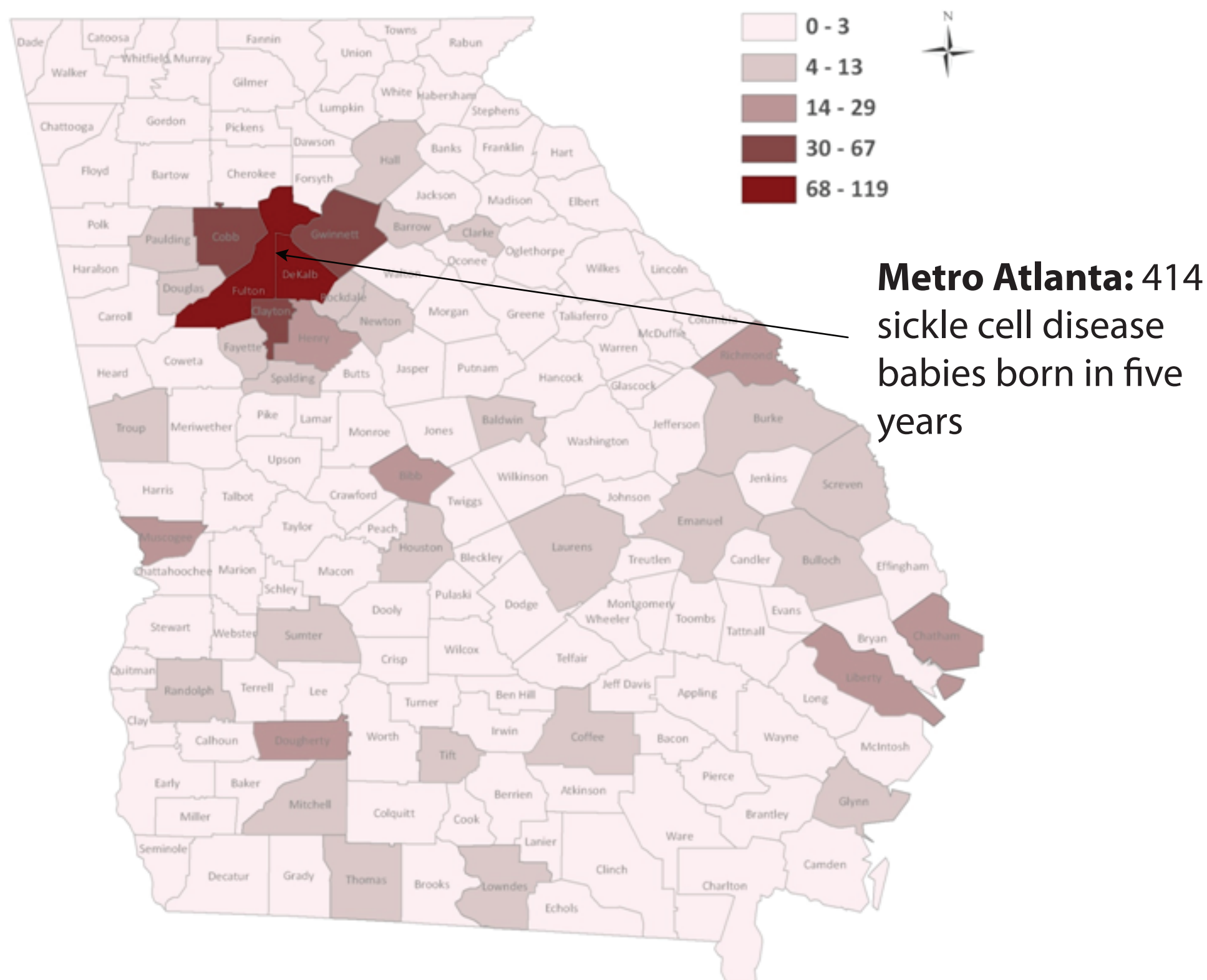
Sickle Cell Disease in Metro Atlanta

Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett

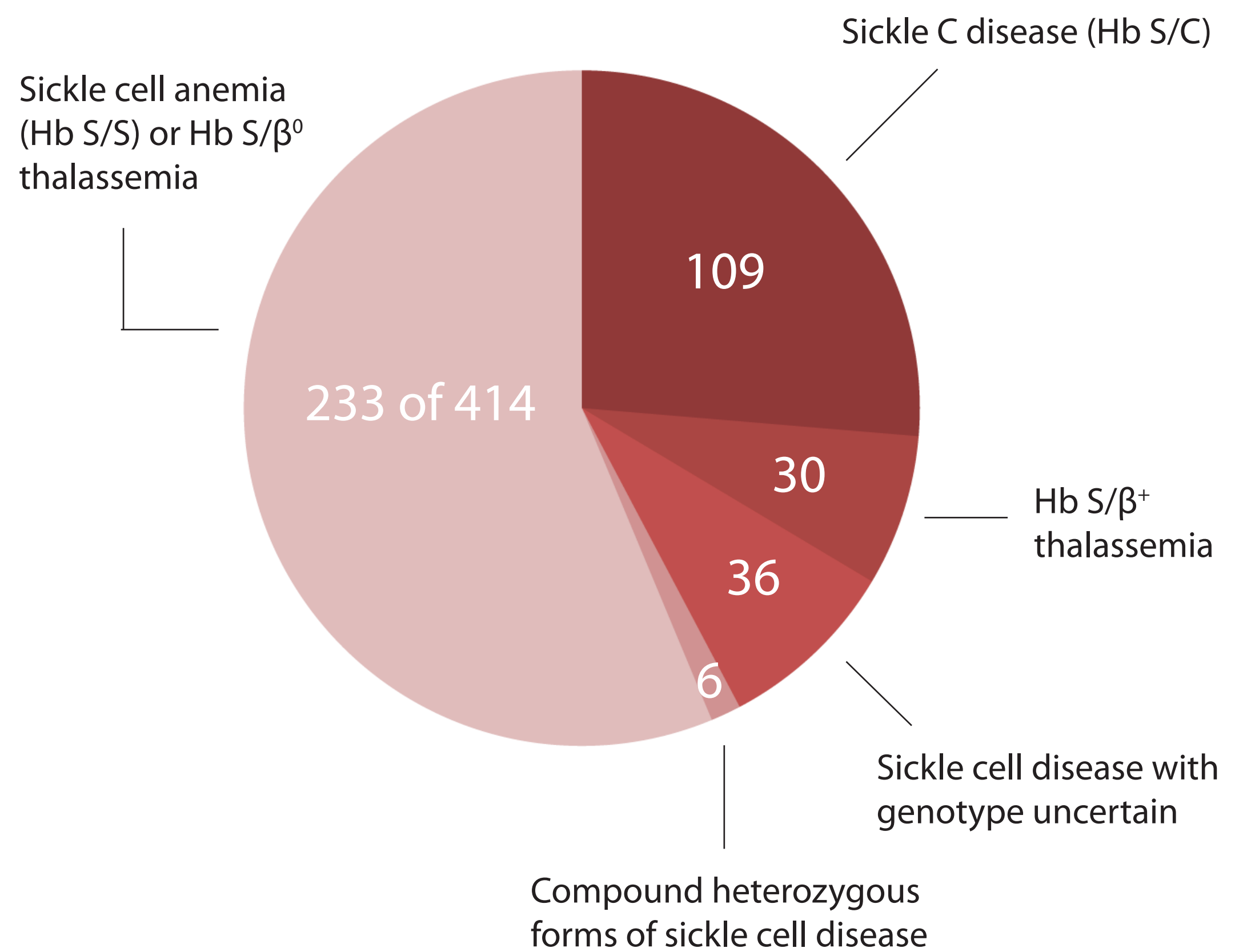


Newborn Screening Tells Us (2004-2008):

Number of Georgia Babies Born with Sickle Cell Disease over Five Years



Types of Sickle Cell Disease in Metro Atlanta Babies

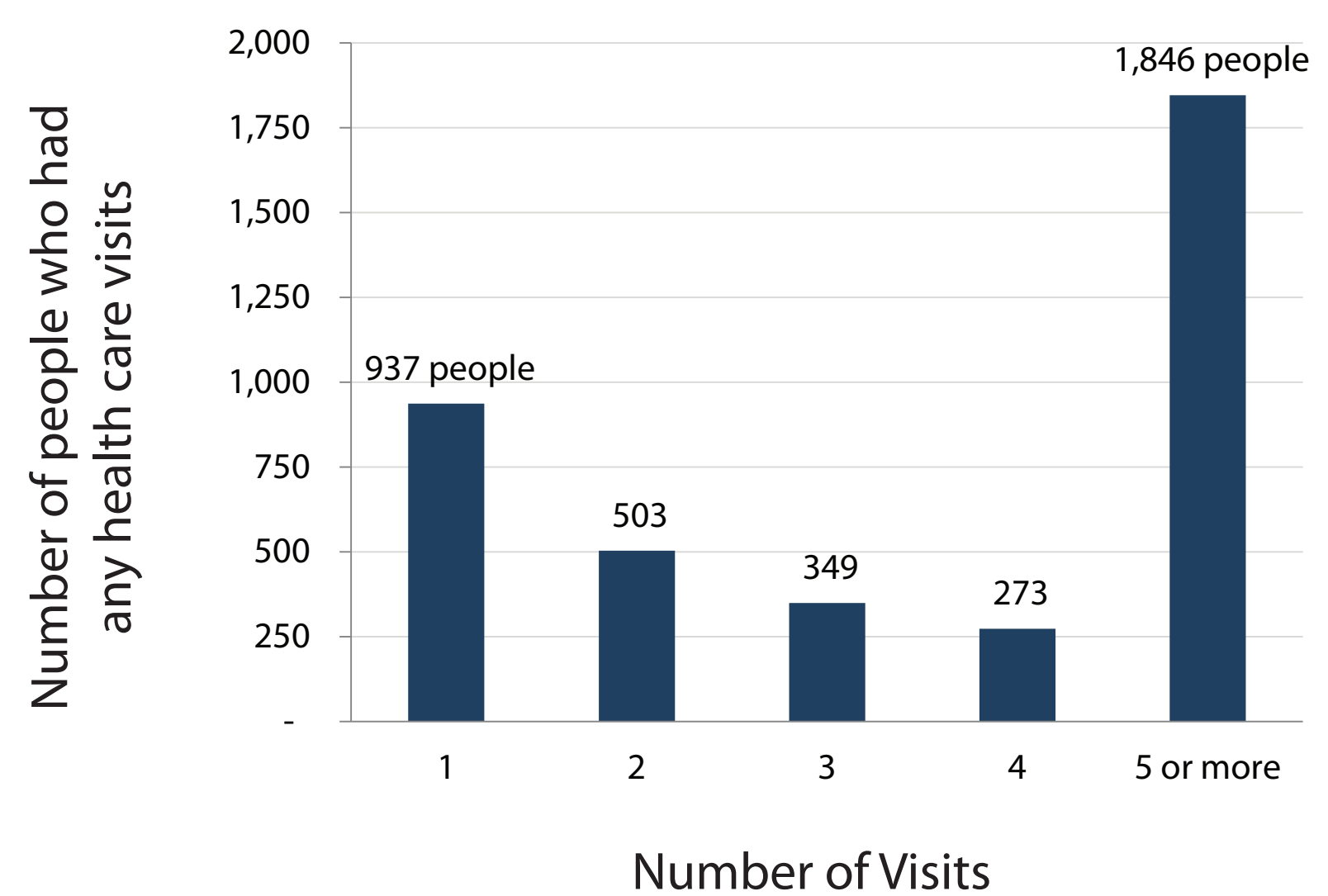


Hospital Billing Records Tell Us (2004-2008):

Sickle Cell Hospital Visits

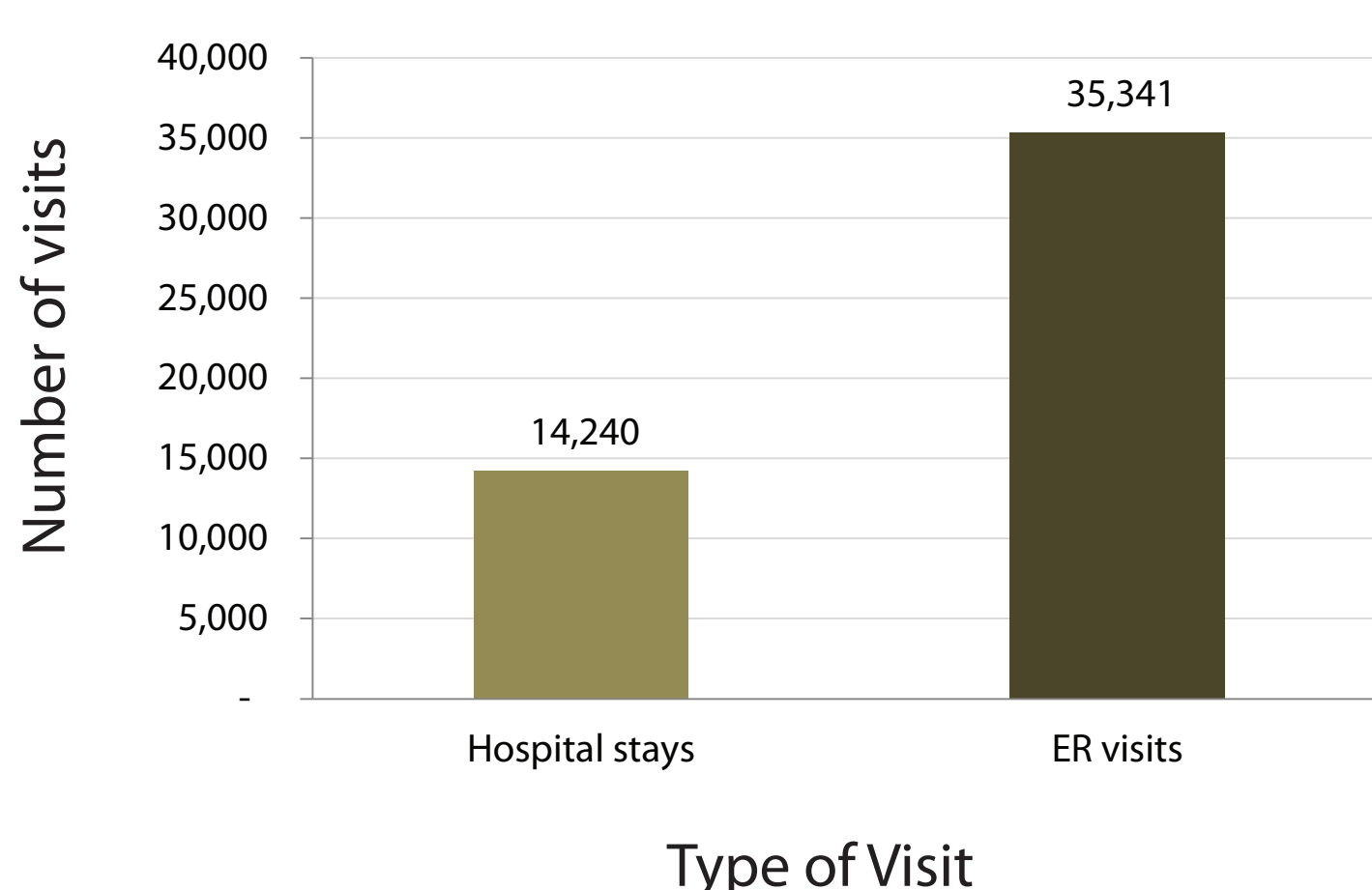
There were 3,908 people from Metro Atlanta who had hospital visits at some time over the five years for problems related to sickle cell disease. Many of these (937) had only one visit. Almost twice as many (1,846) had five or more visits - at least one per year, on average.

Note: We are unable to tell from the records how many people with sickle cell disease did not make any health care visits in this time period.



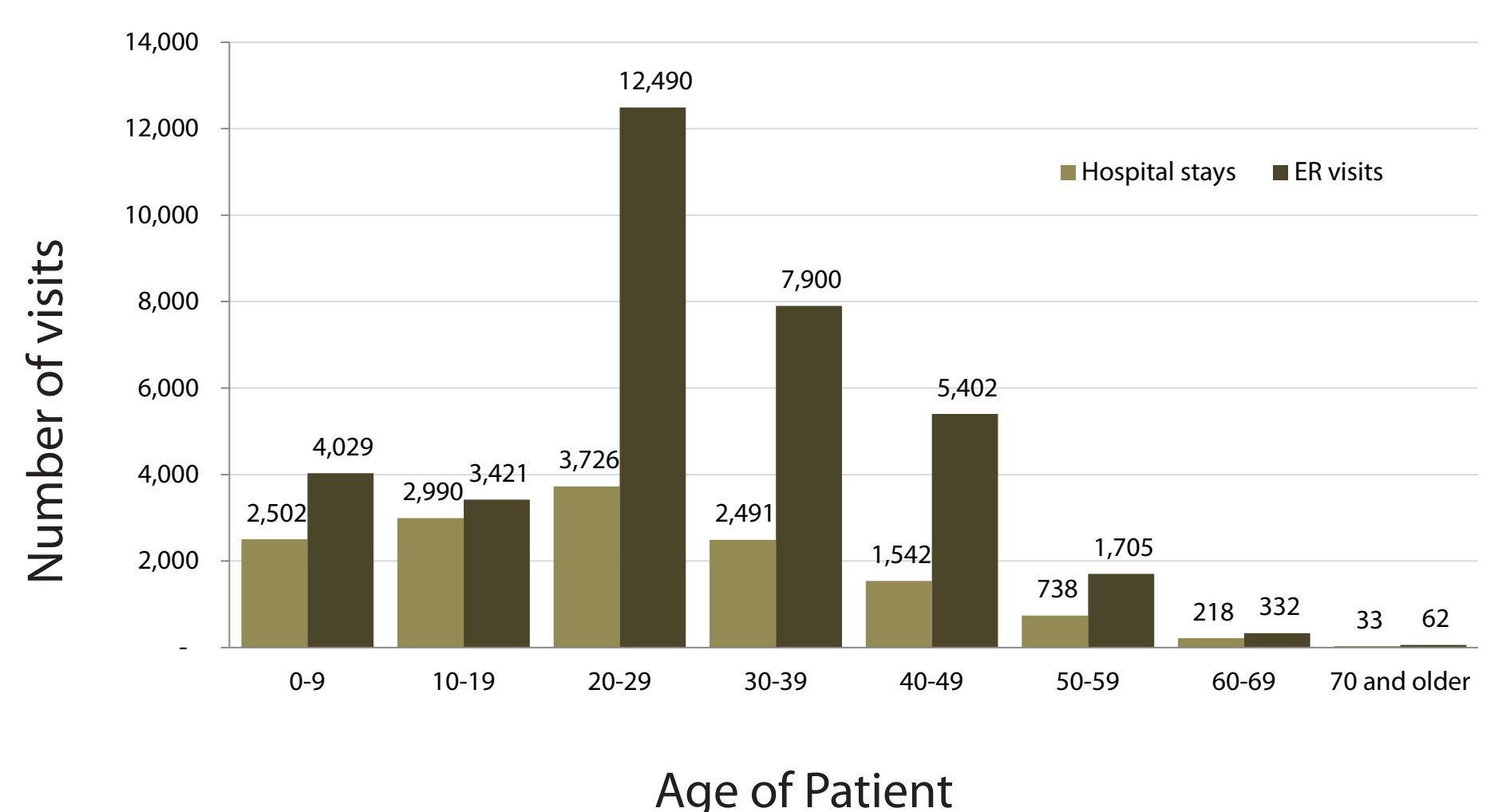
Overnight Hospital Stays and ER Visits

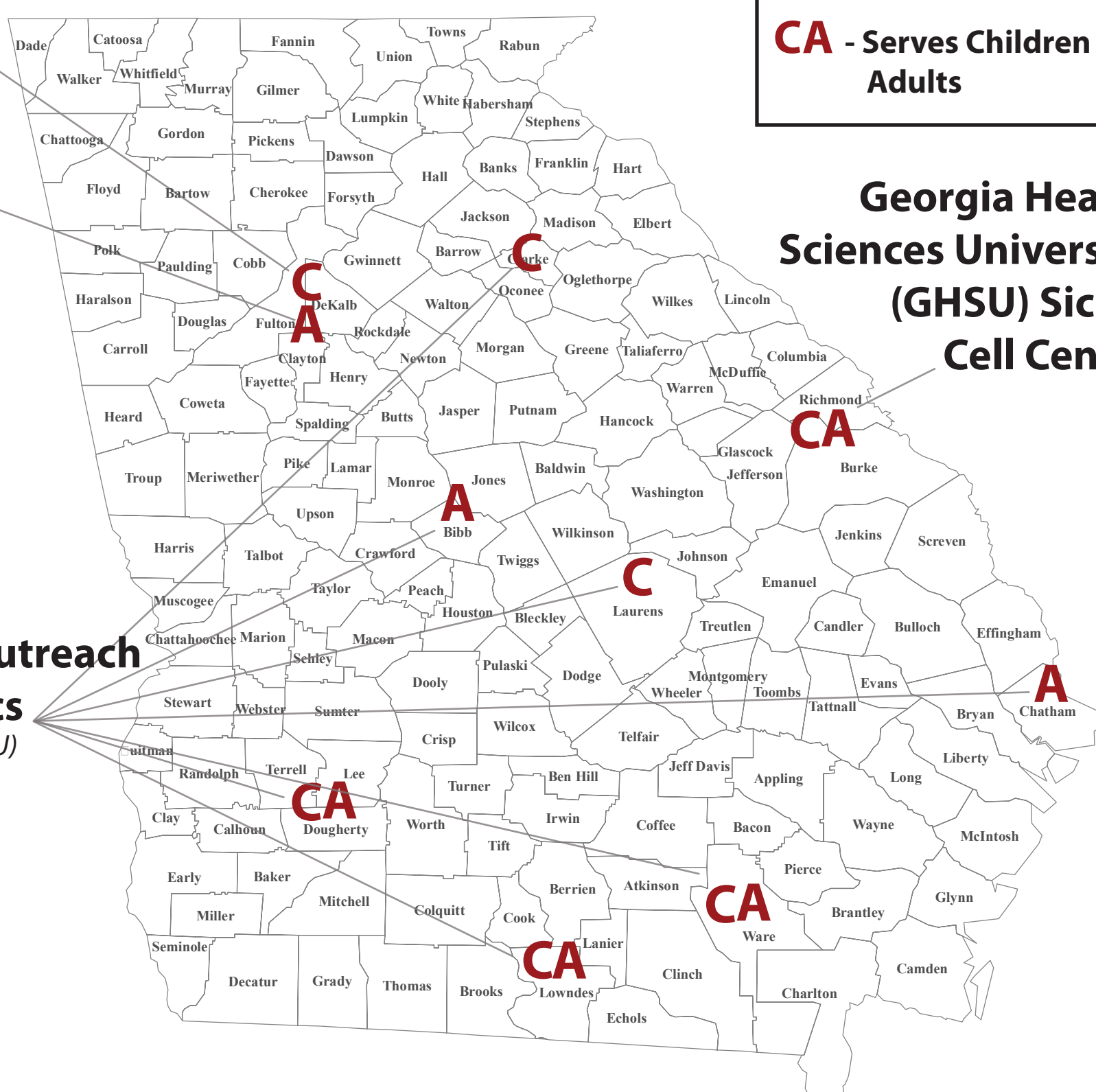
Together, those 3,908 people made a total of 49,581 hospital and ER visits for complications related to sickle cell disease. Many more of those were ER visits (35,341) than overnight hospital stays (14,240).



Hospital Stays and ER Visits by Age Group

This group of 3,908 people made more ER visits than hospital stays in all age groups. People from 20-29 made the most ER visits (12,490) and had the most hospital stays (3,726).





Facts

Not just African Americans get sickle cell disease.

People whose families come from any part of the world can have sickle cell disease. That is why states in the U.S. test all newborn babies for the disease.

There are different types of sickle cell disease.

Sickle cell disease affects each person differently. There are different types of the disease, some that are severe and others that are mild. It is important to know which type you have and tell your doctor. Some of the different types of sickle cell disease are shown on the charts at right.

It's important to know if you have sickle cell trait even if you don't have any symptoms.

Some people inherit a sickle cell gene from one parent and a normal gene from the other. In this case, they have sickle cell trait, not sickle cell disease. It is possible to have health complications from sickle cell trait unless you know what to do to avoid them. It is also possible to pass sickle cell trait or even sickle cell disease on to your children if both parents carry the sickle gene.

Pain is the most common symptom of sickle cell disease.

Sickle cells travel through small blood vessels and clog blood flow. This causes mild to severe pain that can start suddenly and last for any amount of time.

People with sickle cell disease can do things to reduce complications.

These are some things that are important to do if you have sickle cell disease:

- Get regular checkups
- Get recommended vaccinations
- Prevent infections
- Learn healthy eating habits
- Get support from others

*Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sickle Cell Disease Quiz:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/quiz/index.html>*



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